



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Corps Number: 199925221

Date: May 9, 2005

Comments Due: June 6, 2005

Subject: The US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application from the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center to construct an interchange of I-80 and cross the Truckee River. This will impact approximately 1.02 acres of the Truckee River and its adjacent wetlands. This notice is meant to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

Authority: This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in regulated waters of the United States.

Applicant: Tahoe Reno Industrial Center
9476 Double R Blvd Ste A
Reno NV 89521

Location: The project is located in east Reno / Sparks on the Truckee River near the Tracy / Clark exit in Sections 26 & 35, Township 20 North, Range 22 East, Washoe County, Nevada, on the Derby Dam USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

Project Description: The Tahoe Reno Industrial Center (TRI-Center) is proposing to build an interchange off I-80; the interchange area is approximately 34 acres and the TRI-Center complex is approximately 6000 acres. This new interchange will involve building on and off-ramps that will discharge fill material in wetlands adjacent to the Truckee River; additionally, road infrastructure on the project site will require bank stabilization riprap that will occur below the ordinary high water (OHW) elevation of the Truckee River. A new USA Parkway Bridge will be constructed and span across the Truckee River; no fill related to the bridge will be discharged in the river. The new interchange will connect to USA Parkway; the interchange will likely be called the USA Parkway Interchange.

The proposed east-bound off-ramp will impact one portion of a 0.04 acre jurisdictional wetland and 0.06 acres of a second wetland. The proposed east-bound on-ramp, R3, will completely fill 0.96 acres of a third wetland. The wetland impacts are shown on Sheet 2 of 3 on the attached map. The project will also require approximately 350 linear feet of riprap along the existing Tracy-Clark frontage road that will pass under the new bridge. Approximately 250 feet of the toe of this riprap will be below the OHW of the Truckee River. A temporary flow diversion structure will be placed in the river to divert flows away from the riprap construction area (see Sheets 2 and 3 of 3). The diversion structure will be K-barrier type structures sealed with sand bags and, if needed, geotextile material. The downstream end of the diversion structure will have several silt fences to preclude sediment from the dewatered area (the area behind the diversion structure) from entering the Truckee River.

Project Purpose: To construct an Interstate interchange and cross the Truckee River to gain access to the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center.

Environmental Setting: The interchange project area is adjacent to the Truckee River. This segment of the Truckee River is heavily infested with perennial pepperweed (tall whitetop). There several large and small cottonwood trees in the general area. Additionally, there is a gravel mining operation in the area, adjacent to the Truckee River and by the proposed interchange. The wetlands that will be impacted are low quality with a hydrologic, not surficial, connection to the river. The wetland plant community was perennial pepperweed, alkali rye grass, and poverty weed.

Mitigation: The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. In anticipation of an affirmative permit decision for filling 1.02 acres of wetland and impacting approximately 250 feet of river bank (riprap for road protection), the applicant is proposing to construct a wetland, on-site and adjacent to the Truckee River. This wetland will be created by removing a riprapped bankline to create a direct connection to a backwater area. This area will be excavated to function as an alcove to the river. This created wetland / backwater area will be 0.58 acres along with 1.02 acres of riparian zone around the backwater area. See Sheet 3 of 3 for more details.

Water Quality Certification: A permit for the described work will not be issued until certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, has been granted or is waived from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). A waiver will be deemed to occur if the state fails or refuses to act on the request for certification within 60 days.

Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation: The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the 404 (b) (1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

Historic Properties: The present proposal has been ongoing for hte past several years. In January 2000, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office reviewed the project area and determined that, becuae of previous disturbances, it is unlikely that significant historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

Endangered Species: Preliminary review for species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 844) indicates that the proposed activity may affect a listed or threatened species or its critical habitat. Consultation with the Department of the Interior pursuant to Section 7 of ESA has been initiated. A permit for the proposed activity will not be issued until the consultation process is completed and a finding is made that there will be no effect on a listed endangered species or its critical habitat.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Submitting Comments: Comments must be received on or before the expiration date (located above) to be considered in subsequent actions on this application. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to:

Richard Gebhart, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Reno Regulatory Office
300 Booth Street, Room 2103
Reno, Nevada 89509-1361
Email: richard.a.gebhart@usace.army.mil

Public Hearing: Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location.

Additional Information: If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or Richard Gebhart, call 775-784-5307, or email richard.a.gebhart@usace.army.mil.

Attachments